

### REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of July 16, 2003, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-25 are pending, with claims 1 and 14 being independent. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added. In particular, support for the amended claims is found in the original application on page 6 at lines 6-21, in Figs. 20 and 21, and in claims 3 and 18.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-15, and 17-25 have been rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,056,326 ("Guest"). Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Guest does not describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 14.

Independent claim 1 recites a connector assembly that includes a nut, a first member, a second member, and a third member. The connector assembly is used for coupling a conduit to an electrical device that includes a body having an end with an outer edge and a threaded exterior surface. The nut includes a first angled end, a second threaded end, and an inner cavity between the first angled end and the second threaded end. The nut is configured to be threadably attached to the threaded exterior surface of the body. Each of the first, second, and third members includes first and second edges, is positioned within the cavity, and encloses the conduit when the conduit is connected to the body. When the nut is threadably attached to the body, the first edge of the first member slidably mates with the first angled end of the nut, the second edge of the first member slidably mates with the first edge of the second member, the second edge of the second member is in contact with the first edge of the third member, the second edge of the third member mates against the outer edge of the end of the body, and a portion of the first member penetrates an outer surface of the conduit.

Guest does not describe or suggest a connector assembly that includes a nut and a first member, where a portion of the first member penetrates an outer surface of a conduit when the nut is threadably attached to the body.

Guest relates to a tube coupling having a throughway to receive an end portion of a tube. The tube coupling includes a coupling body and a coupling cap that can be screwed together. See Guest at title and abstract. The coupling cap and the and the coupling body form a cavity

into which a portion of a collet fits. When the coupling cap and the coupling body are screwed together, resilient arms of the collet are pressed against an outer surface of the tube. See Guest at col. 2:65 – col. 3:44 and FIGS. 1 and 4. However, when the coupling cap and the coupling body are unscrewed, the resilient arms of the collet release the tube, and the tube can be withdrawn. There is no teaching or suggestion that the collet, or any other part of the assembly described in Guest, penetrates an outer surface of a tube when the coupling cap and the coupling body are screwed together.

For at least these reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-6 and 9-13.

Independent claim 14 recites a method of coupling a conduit to an electrical device. Similar to claim 1, the method includes using a connector assembly that includes the nut and a first member, where a portion of the first member penetrates an outer surface of a conduit that is captured by the connector assembly. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Guest does not disclose or suggest a connector assembly that includes a nut and a first member, where a portion of the first member penetrates an outer surface of a conduit when the nut is threadably attached to the body. Thus, Guest does not disclose or suggest the method of coupling the conduit to an electrical device as recited in claim 14. For at least these reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 and its dependent claims 15 and 17-25.

Claims 2, 7-8, and 16 have been rejected as allegedly being obvious over Guest in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,469,076 ("Lin"). Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Lin does not remedy the failure of Guest to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims.

Lin relates to a tube connector structure through which a tube passes. The structure includes an annular rubber fastening washer, an annular guiding sleeve, an annular conic spring washer, and an annular sleeve-like nut. See Lin at FIGS. 3 and 4. When the sleeve-like nut is tightened against a tube connector the conic spring washer is compressed under the annular guiding sleeve and against the tube to capture the tube. However, Lin does not disclose or suggest that the conic spring washer, or any other member of the connector assembly, penetrates

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an outer surface of tube when the nut is threadably attached to a connector body. The name "conic spring washer" suggests that when the connector structure is unscrewed from the connector body the washer springs back to its original shape and does not ever penetrate the tube.

For at least these reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2, 7-8, and 16.

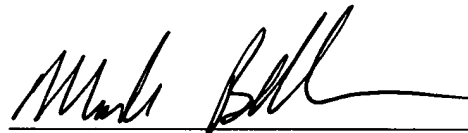
Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

Enclosed is a \$110.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 08215-441001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/17/03



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